



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1894, the first documented polio outbreak in the United States occurred in Vermont with 18 deaths and 132 cases of permanent paralysis reported; and

WHEREAS, a major polio outbreak in 1916 across the nation took the lives of about 6,000 people and paralyzed thousands more; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Rotary International launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, World Polio Day was initiated by Rotary International over 10 years ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk who led the team in developing the first vaccine for Poliomyelitis; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than \$1.8 billion and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is currently working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be further leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, and I, JOSHUA B. GREEN, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2019 as

“WORLD POLIO DAY”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing Rotary International, support the fight to eradicate the polio virus completely from the world, and prevent the possibility of a resurgence of this highly contagious disease.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-sixth day of September 2019.

JOSHUA B. GREEN
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i